



# NEWS RELEASE

**Drew H. Wrigley**  
**United States Attorney**  
**District of North Dakota**

655 First Ave. N. Suite 250 P. O. Box 699  
Fargo, ND 58102-4932 Bismarck, ND 58502-0699  
701-297-7400 701-530-2420

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*For Further Information Contact: Beth Lang (701-530-2420)*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **North Dakota Resident Sentenced for Poaching Two Park Elk**

**Bismarck** - United States Attorney Drew H. Wrigley announced that **Michael V. Renner**, 46, of Dickinson, North Dakota, was sentenced on March 2, 2006, before United States District Court Chief Judge Daniel L. Hovland on three charges involving violations of National Park Service Regulations and the Lacey Act.

**Renner** and his wife, both North Dakota residents, successfully drew 2005 North Dakota elk licenses for the E-4 hunting unit. Investigation revealed that **Renner** hunted in a number of locations within the eligible elk hunting unit during the season. Towards the end of the elk season **Renner** hunted along the Theodore Roosevelt National Park South Unit boundary. One day **Renner** observed a cow elk walking inside the Park boundary fence. Seconds later **Renner** saw a 6X6 bull elk following the cow within the Park's boundary. **Renner**, who was by himself, shot at the bull elk. The bull elk ran further into the Park, where **Renner** fired a second shot before the elk disappeared from sight. **Renner** moved to a new location and fired a shot at the cow elk he had originally seen, dropping the cow elk within the Park's boundary.

**Renner** crossed into the Park and dragged the cow elk out to adjacent Forest Service property, where he field-dressed the animal. While walking back to his vehicle **Renner** observed the dead bull elk, which he had shot moments earlier. **Renner** attempted to drag the bull elk under the Park fence but was unsuccessful due to the elk's size and the terrain.

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In a cooperative effort between the National Park Service, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service Rangers were able to trace **Renner**'s steps and prove both elk had been taken within the Park's boundary. When faced with the facts **Renner** admitted his mistakes and told the Officers that he had possessed his wife's license and had intended on harvesting two elk if the opportunity presented itself.

On March 2, 2006, Judge Hovland sentenced **Renner** to pay fines and restitution in the amount of \$6,000.00. Additionally, **Renner** was placed on two years supervised probation during which time **Renner** loses his hunting privileges in North America. Additionally, **Renner** was ordered to serve 80 hours of community service during his term of probation.

Assistant United States Attorney Cameron Hayden prosecuted the case.

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